

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 221455Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 815

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJ: TURKISH GOVT'S POSTION ON UDI REMAINS UNCLEAR

1. IN THE WEEK SINCE TURK CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH BEGAN THREATENING A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (UDI), THE GOT HAS FAILED TO DECLARE A CLEAR POSITION FOR OR AGAINST UDI. WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SUMMARY OF WHAT PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID:

A. THE FIRST REACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS VOICED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FEYZIOGLU WHO DID NOT REPORT NOT DECLARE A GOT POSITION WITH RESPECT TO UDI, BUT PROMISED THAT TURKEY "WOULD NOT REPORT NOT BE THE LAST" TO SUPPORT DENKTASH IF HE DECLARED UDI (ANKARA 7107).

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B. PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL ON SEPTEMBER 18 BACKED AWAY FROM SUPPORT OF UDI

BY POINTING OUT THAT THE GOVT'S POSITION ON CYPRUS WAS AS STATED IN ITS PROGRAM (ANKARA 7177). THE NEXT DAY HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT DENKTASH WAS BEING MISUNDERSTOOD AND THAT HIS STATEMENTS WERE QUITE CONDITIONAL.

C. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL WAS QUOTED IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN MILLIYET SEPT 21 AS SAYING HE INTERPRETED THE DENKTASH STATEMENTS AS EXPLANATIONS OF THE KINDS OF CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD FORCE HIM TO DECLARE INDEPENDENCE. CAGLAYANGIL CONTINUED, "AS OUR GOVT STATES IN ITS PROGRAM -- WHICH WAS ALSO APPROVED BY THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY -- IT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF CYPRUS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO."

D. NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY PRIMIN ERBAKAN VOICED SUPPORT FOR UDI IN A CAMPAIGN SPEECH SPET 19 PROVIDED THE "THE GREEKS DO NOT ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS WE LAY DOWN..." (ANKARA 7222).

2. OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT HAS NOT RPT NO COMMENTED DIRECTLY ON UDI, BUT IN ATTACKING THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE DEMIREL GOVT HE SUGGESTED THAT PARTITION OF THE ISLAND (AS THE END RESULT OF UDI) WOULD BE A GREEK VICTORY (ANKARA 7185). CATEGORICAL OPPOSITION TO UDI WAS VOICED IN A STATEMENT BY ECEVIT'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR, HALUK ULMAN, (ANKARA 7138). A SMALL ISTANBUL DAILY, YENI ULUS, ASSOCIATED WITH THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY'S (RPP) LEFT WING, HAS ATTACKED UDI, AS HAVE A LEFTIST COLUMNIST AND A CARTONNIST IN CUMHURCIYET.

3. THE COUNSELOR OF THE BRITISH EMBASS TOLD EMBOFFS SEPT 20 THAT HE HAD UNDER INSTRUCTIONS CALLED ON MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG SEPT 19 TO ISSUE A "GRAVE WARNING" ON THE SUBJECT OF UDI. ELEKDAG RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SAY THAT THE GOVT POSITION ON CYPRUS CONTINUES TO BE THE ONE STATED IN THE GOVT PROGRAM. ELEKDAG ALSO INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IF DENKTASH WERE TO PROCLAIM UDI, THE GOVT WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT NOT TO SUPPORT HIM. (THIS RESPONSE IS SIMILAR TO ELEKDAG'S COMMENT, REPORTED IN ANKARA 7088, ABOUT DENKTASH'S "UNMANAGEABILITY.")

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4. AS FOR THE U.S. PUBLIC POSITION, ONE NEWSPAPER (MILLIYET) SO FAR HAS REPORTED THAT "A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL" SAID IN WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. OPPOSED TURKISH CYPRIOT INDEPENDENCE. THIS REPORT WAS PAIRED WITH ONE FROM NICOSIA TO THE EFFECT THAT MAKARIOS HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR THAT THE USSR OPPOSED UDI.

5. COMMENT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ERBAKAN, BOTH THE

GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION APPEAR IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO BE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT UDI AND BOTH DEMIREL AND ECEVIT PROBABLY ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO UDI. HOWEVER, THEY SEEM EQUALLY RELUCTANT TO PLACE THEMSELVES ON THE PUBLIC RECORD DURING THIS PRE-ELECTION PERIOD IN OPPOSITION TO DENKTASH, WHO UNDOUBTEDLY IS AWARE THAT HE HAS SPECIAL LEVERAGE OVER MAINLAND POLITICAL LEADERS AT THIS TIME. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE THAT BEFORE THE OCTOBER 12 ELECTIONS THE GOT CAN NOT RPT NOT BE COUNTED ON TO STOP THE PROCLAMATION OF UDI IF DENKTASH'S CONDITIONS ARE NOT RPT NOT MET AS REGARDS UNGA ACTION.
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